



# Republican Policy Committee

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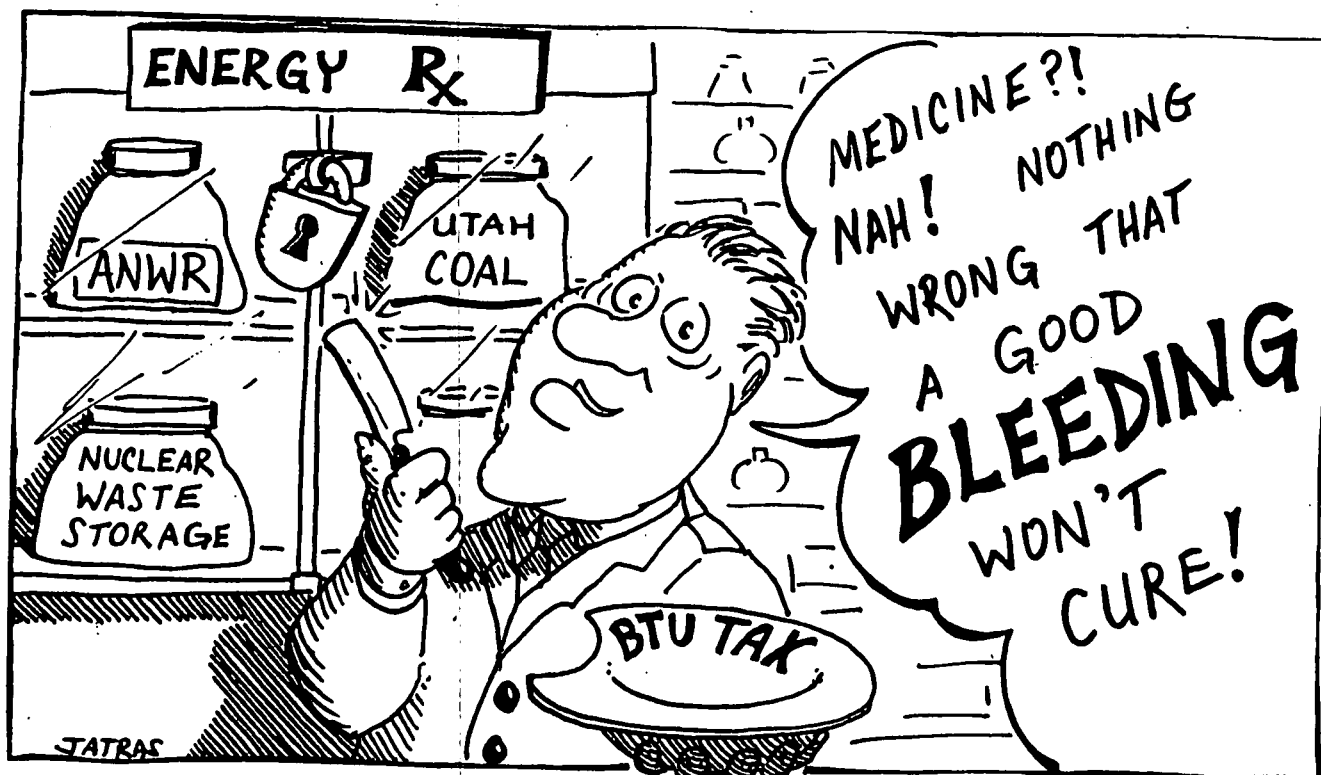
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## U.S. Oil Dependency Grows

### The Clinton Energy Record: Pain, But No Gain

#### Under Clinton, Energy Dependency Worsens

- ▶ In 1992, candidate Clinton (in *Putting People First*) blamed Presidents Reagan and Bush for having “undermined our national security and cut short our economic growth because they haven’t had a national energy policy.” This president has failed to live up to his own yardstick for success.
- ▶ For the first time in U.S. history, America has been importing more than 50 percent of its petroleum needs, yet President Clinton has ignored his own Commerce Department’s February 1995 warning that this foreign oil dependency is a threat to national security. Under Clinton’s energy policies, Americans will be importing two-thirds of their petroleum needs by the year 2000, according to Clinton’s own Department of Energy.



- ▶ During the first seven months of this year, more than 51 percent of the petroleum consumed in this country was imported. Due to the Clinton Administration's neglect, **America is importing 11 percent more foreign oil than the last year of the Bush Administration** (when the dependency was 46 percent). The only other time oil imports grossed more than 50 percent of consumption was during 1994 — Clinton's second year as President, when it was 50.3 percent.
- ▶ Domestic production is falling off rapidly and 32,000 domestic oil and gas production workers have lost good jobs since Clinton took office in 1993.
- ▶ Ever-increasing oil imports are also hurting the U.S. economy and its balance of trade. Americans imported \$55 billion worth of petroleum last year. So far this year, oil imports comprise more than one-third of the trade deficit (\$37.5 billion in imports already during the first seven months of 1996, compared to a trade deficit of \$107 billion for this same period).

### **Clinton "Energy Policy" Was a Tax**

- ▶ During his 1992 presidential campaign, Clinton promised to "oppose federal excise tax increases." In *Putting People First*, he said, "Instead of a backbreaking federal gas tax, we should try conservation, increased use of natural gas, and increased use of alternative fuels." Republicans support these alternatives, and strongly oppose regressive federal energy taxes.
- ▶ **President Clinton's energy policy was an energy tax.** In his first State of the Union address, newly elected President Clinton broke his campaign promises made only months before by proposing a burdensome federal tax on every source of energy a family uses. He proposed to tax electricity, gasoline, and even clean-burning natural gas with his infamous "BTU" tax, a federal excise tax on the heat content of energy.
- ▶ Clinton's \$71.4 billion BTU tax proposal would have taxed Americans every time senior citizens needed to turn up the heat because they were cold, or parents every time they needed to prepare a hot, nourishing meal, or drive their children to school. The Clinton Administration wanted to tax people for providing for their own and their family's needs. Republicans stopped the Clinton BTU tax proposal.
- ▶ That same year, 1993, Clinton hammered away until he and the Democratic-controlled Congress passed a 4.3-cent-per-gallon gasoline and diesel tax on Americans. Every single Republican Congressman and Senator voted against the Clinton energy tax increase. The revenues from the Clinton gas tax did not go to increase energy or even to improve roads, bridges, or mass transit — it went into the General Treasury for more spending.

- ▶ The moderate candidate Clinton who promised in *Putting People First* to “oppose federal excise taxes,” proved to be a liberal tax-and-spend President. Americans, now once burned, should be twice shy.

## Clinton's Actual Record: Increasing Energy Insecurity

- ▶ Clinton, as President, could have lifted regulatory and administrative impediments to a more robust domestic energy industry. However, he has done little except systematically block environmentally responsible energy production from public lands. In a cynical twist of his environmental thesis, “you can’t have a healthy economy without a healthy environment” (Earth Day speeches, 1993 and 1995), Clinton has really been saying that the environment is *all* that matters.
- ▶ **Blocked Utah Coal Mine An Energy and Economic Mistake:** In his “Utah land grab” of September 18, 1996, in which President Clinton (standing beside Robert Redford) locked up 1.7 million acres of public lands in Utah by proclaiming the lands a National Monument. This proclamation (using the obscure 1906 Antiquities Act) was made without consulting the people who live in Utah and without conducting an environmental impact assessment. The proclamation will block development of the nation’s largest reserve of clean, low-sulfur coal. The proposed underground mine, with a 40-acre surface disturbance, could have produced as much as \$1.2 trillion in coal over 40 years.
- ▶ **Veto of ANWR Oil Production Hurts Trade Balance:** In 1995, Clinton vetoed legislation to begin careful, environmentally sensitive oil production from the huge oil field in the Coastal Plain portion of northeast Alaska’s 19-million-acre wildlife refuge, which contains as much as 9 billion barrels of recoverable oil. This production could reduce payments for imported oil by as much as \$14 billion a year for many years. Net national economic activity generated by oil development in the area could reach \$325 billion, according to a Department of the Interior report.
- ▶ **Opposition to Nuclear Waste Bill Threatens Electric Generation:** Clinton has obstructed passage of needed legislation to get the Department of Energy moving on constructing a single, safe repository for the nation’s nuclear waste from 80 separate nuclear powerplants and federal facilities located in over 41 states. The temporary storage sites at 23 nuclear powerplants will be out of room by 1998, threatening continued reliable nuclear power from those facilities. Utility ratepayers have already paid more than \$11 billion in fees and interest to the Federal Government in return for the government’s promise to begin taking possession of the spent fuel beginning January 1, 1998.

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